

REDEEMER

R E P O R T

JUNE 2005

CAPTURING THE VISION

BY: DAVID BISGROVE

Last month Tim Keller wrote about the upcoming Vision Campaign. The article described how we are going to spend the fall thinking and praying through Redeemer's vision, which is to become increasingly the kind of gospel centered church that:

- Welcomes, attracts, and engages secular people.
- Is committed to character change through an experience of in-depth community.
- Serves the city (and especially

the poor) in both word and deed.

- Produces cultural leaders who integrate faith and work in the public culture.
- Routinely multiplies itself into new churches with the same vision.

In order for Redeemer to become this kind of community, there will need to be a deeper understanding of, engagement with, and ownership of the vision by all of us. To that end, major thinking and planning has already begun on how to best

communicate the vision to the congregation. As Tim mentioned in last month's newsletter, there will be many ways for those within our congregation to help. We have assembled various teams for the Vision Campaign, such as Prayer and Communication. We have also identified three leaders who have agreed to serve as co-chairs of the campaign. These individuals will be working closely with the staff, volunteer leaders, and consultants in formulating strategy for the Campaign.

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"VISION" CAMPAIGN OR "CAPITAL" CAMPAIGN?

BY: KATHY KELLER

In past issues of this newsletter we began referring to the coming effort-to-raise-lots-of-money as a "Capital Campaign." That's what this sort of thing is usually called, so we just went along with it. However, you may notice that in this issue of the newsletter, and going forward, the name by which this effort-to-raise-etc. will be known is "the Vision Campaign."

That doesn't represent some kind of consultant's spin, rather the reverse. At Redeemer, we feel it is far more crucial to impart a sense of ownership about the vision and mission of Redeemer than it is to actually get the big checks. Money always follows your heart—"Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also..." was something Jesus said in dis-

cussing idolatry. However, the reverse is equally true—where your heart is engaged and committed, your treasure will flow most effortlessly and joyfully.

Sermons, small group studies, and congregational activities will all be focused on understanding what we believe to be the mission God has given Redeemer. Once that is clear and exciting, asking for personal and financial support will be secondary.

One more thing: Since this Campaign will be asking for gifts *over and above* the normal giving to support our regular programs, you might want to begin thinking about and praying for the means to give creatively.

In our family, for instance, we are coming to the end of paying

for college tuition for our last of three sons. We have decided that we will find our funds by acting like there is another tuition bill due (when was the last time there wasn't?) and make that our contribution. (For the last Campaign, we decided to "pre-tithe" the inheritance I expected to get from my father's will.)

I'm sure you can think of even more creative ways to "find" funds to support the Vision Campaign. Or perhaps God, who, according to Psalms, is "the owner of the cattle on a thousand hills," will sell one of them for you and unlooked for money will come your way. In any event, it will be interesting to see how treasure will follow our hearts, as we come to invest in the vision of Redeemer.

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STAYING CONNECTED

As we prepare to launch Redeemer's Vision Campaign we need your help to insure that your information is up to date.

What Information?

Through our database Redeemer keeps a contact profile of every person who has expressed interest in being part of our broader community. As you might imagine, maintaining the information for approximately 15,000 contacts in our database is a tremendous challenge for our staff. We upgraded our database onto new software about two years ago. Now, with the Vision Campaign starting in the fall, it is important that we make sure that those records are up to date.

We are asking everyone in the Redeemer community to update their personal contact information by going on-line at www.redeemer.com and clicking on the box in the center column of the home page titled: **UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION.** There you can log into the database and check your existing record and update any information that has

changed, or enter your information if you do not have a record. When you are logged on, you can also choose to either continue receiving your communication from Redeemer through the US Mail, or to begin receiving the newsletter and other information by e-mail.

Does it make a difference doing this on-line?

YES! by updating on-line and receiving your information the same way, you can help us:

- Redirect thousands of dollars to ministries rather than data input and database maintenance.
- Reduce annual costs when you sign up to replace your postal mailings with e-mail (significantly reducing costs of printing, postage, and staff hours).
- Facilitate better communication with you.

Does my single profile really make that much of a difference?

YES! By keeping your information current we can keep you informed of important events and information that are critical to those engaged in Redeemer's vision. It also helps us better use financial resources. The average savings to Redeemer's annual

budget for each person who changes over to receive e-mail of newsletters and other mailings instead of regular posted mail is approximately \$20. So for every 1000 people in our database who change over to e-mail from postal mail, Redeemer will save \$20,000 annually.

What if I don't have access to the Internet?

If you are not able to update your profile on-line, you can fill out information on the tear away portion of a Sunday worship bulletin and drop it in the offering or send your contact information to the church office. Everyone with accurate contact information will continue to receive mailings from Redeemer.

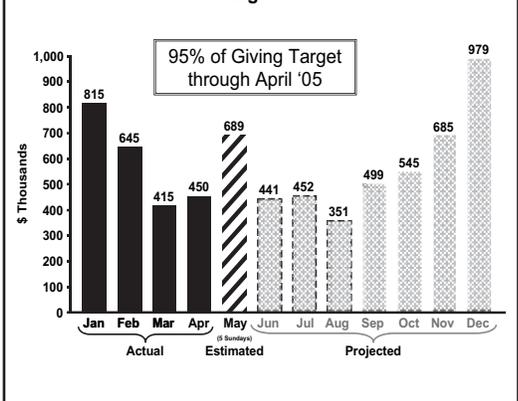
Our goal is to receive all updates by July 31, 2005. If your information is inaccurate after this date, your profile will become inactive in the database and you will not be able to receive future communications until we receive your current contact information. If you have any questions, you can call the church office. Thank you for your help in improving our communication.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Each summer as you begin your vacations and weekends away, it is important to remember that Redeemer continues to minister to thousands of people each week in June, July and August. As the graph to the right shows, giving is always lower in the summer months, but we still need approximately \$1,244,000 (or \$96,000/week) to maintain our operating budget. Through this April, we are approximately 5% behind in our budgeted giving (around \$150,000), so we ask that you please remember to include Redeemer in your regular gifts and offerings this summer. Thanks again for your ongoing partnership!

For more information, please contact David Bisgrove at david@redeemer.com; or at 212-808-4460; ext. 111.

2005 Giving Overview



REDEEMER REPORT

Kathy Keller
Carl de Prado
Fred Liedtke

The Redeemer Report is a publication of the Redeemer Presbyterian Church.
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HUNTER COLLEGE AUDITORIUM
East 69TH (Between Park & Lexington)
services at 10:30AM • 5:45PM

ETHICAL CULTURE
West 64TH and CPW
service at 9:15AM

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
Corner of West 79TH and Broadway
service at 7:00PM

Introducing the three co-chairs of the vision campaign.



James Herring

James and his wife Carol moved to NYC in 2002. They have four children (James, Campbell, and new twins Lois and Anne.) James is an Elder at Redeemer, and works in the area of Private Wealth Management at Goldman Sachs.



Lynn Easterling

Lynn has been in NYC since 1993 (with a brief stint in the Washington, D.C., area), and is the Director of Legal Affairs for Cisco Systems. She is married to Jay, and they have one son (Joonie).



Edward Ryeom

Edward came to New York City in 1987. He is married to Sue and they have three children (Emily, Nicole and Matthew). He is a venture capitalist with Axalon Capital and serves on the board of Directors of Board of Hope for New York.

As we begin to process the vision, it is important to remember what we are striving to do. Our goal is not to gain power, but to seek the common good of the whole city and serve all people, whether they share a belief in Jesus Christ or not. Only then will we walk in the footsteps of Jesus, who achieved his enormous influence in history not by taking power but through radical service to those who rejected him (Phil 2:4-9.) When long-term residents of the great metropolises

like NYC are transformed by the gospel and drawn into churches to live out the pattern of Jesus' life, the result will be city-change, culture-change and world-change.

If you are interested in helping out as a volunteer, please contact David Bisgrove at david@redeemer.com; or by calling him at 212.808.4460; ext 111.

NEVER TOO EARLY TO PRAY

As the article ("Capturing the Vision") mentions, a Prayer Team is being organized to assist in the Vision Campaign. Given the scope of Redeemer's vision, it will be critical to become a community marked by prayer. Jack Miller's book *Outgrowing the Ingrown Church* is helpful as we think about how to pray as a community. Essentially, he contrasts what he calls 'maintenance' and 'frontline' praying. Maintenance prayers tend to be more short, mechanical and inward focused, while frontline prayers are 'revolutionary', summarized in the words 'Thy Kingdom come... on earth as it is in heaven.'

To that end, please begin to pray that God's vision for Redeemer be realized in our midst. We particularly need prayer for:

- Our staff – that they would pursue their calling with joy, wisdom and grace; and that God would draw them closer to himself.
- Our volunteers – that they would model Christ's love as they serve the church; and that hundreds of additional volunteers would be raised up for the Campaign and the various ministries.
- Our Fellowship Groups – that they would be communities where lives are transformed by Christ's presence.
- The Campaign Teams – that

BY: DAVID BISGROVE

there would be gifted leaders from within the congregation to assist in the process.

- Our City – that it would increasingly become a place that reflects God's Kingdom in word and deed.

Below find a suggested prayer, based on Psalm 46, which could serve as a model as we begin this journey together.

"God, our refuge and strength, which art the author of all godliness, be ready to hear the devout prayers of thy church; and grant that those things which we ask faithfully we may obtain effectually; through Jesus Christ our Lord"
(From "The Collection of Thomas Cranmer").

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CHURCH PLANTING: REDEEMER'S FOUNDATION

The realization of Redeemer's vision relies on a strong commitment to church planting. This commitment is borne out of Redeemer's own beginnings.

Did you know:

Redeemer was planted in 1989 through an initial investment of \$250,000 from generous individuals and the Women In the Church Special offering of our denomination. From 1989 to 1997 Redeemer assisted in the planting of 7 churches.

As part of Redeemer's first Vision Campaign and the funds raised from it, the Redeemer Church Planting Center (RCPC) was started in 2000. Since 2000, **approximately \$1 million has been invested annually** in church planting by the RCPC, assisting the start of over 75 churches (45 in the NYC Metro Area and 30 in global cities such as London, Amsterdam, Budapest, Boston, and Washington, DC) **New churches are the only**

ministries that become self-supporting and expand the base for all other ministries. A new church only requires funding at the beginning. Within a few years it becomes the source of funding for other ministries.

To learn more about RCPC please contact Mark Reynolds (Assistant Director) at MarkRCPC@redeemer.com; or at 212.808.4460, ext 118.